

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 01502 071338Z

51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-10 AGR-05 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06

CEA-01 STR-01 /095 W

----- 067618

R 070843Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3040

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 1502

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB ET

SUBJ: PMAC CALLS FOR WORKS COUNCILS IN NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES

REF: A) ADDIS 1297; B) ADDIS 1407; C) ADDIS 1377

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING PROMULGATION OF WIDESPREAD NATIONALIZATIONS OF INDUSTRY AND FEBRUARY 3 DECLARATION OF ECONOMIC POLICY, PMAC ELABORATED ON DECISION TO ESTABLISH WORKS COUNCILS (CONTAINED IN FEBRUARY 3 DECLARATION) AS MEANS FOR WORKERS' PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT. MINISTER OF NATIONAL RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT EXPANDED ON EFFECT OF DECISION BY SAYING CELU SHOUD CEASE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ACTIVITIES AS WASTE OF TIME AND REORGANIZE ITSELF TO EDUCATE WORKERS IN RUNNING FACTORIES ALONG SOCIALIST LINES. THIS VIEW OF ROLE OF UNIONS STANDS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO OTHER STATEMENTS OF ETHIOPIAN LABOR POLICY FAVORING MORE TRADITIONAL APPROACH ALONG LINES OF ILO PRINCIPLES AND TO REALITIES OF WORKERS' CONTINUING NEEDS FOR REPRESENTATION IN DISPUTE AND GRIEVANCE CASES. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ADDIS 01502 071338Z

1. HARD UPON PMAC ANNOUNCEMENT OF NATIONALIZATION OF SUBSTANTIAL

NUMBER OF INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (REF A) AND DECLARATION OF ECONOMIC POLICY (REF B), CAME WORD OF STRONG INTEREST ON PART OF PMAC THAT WORKERS SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN MANAGEMENT OF STATE-OWNED FIRMS VIA FORMATION OF WORKS COUNCILS ALONG LINES LAID DOWN IN FEBRUARY 3 DECLARATION. NEW MINISTRY OF NATIONAL RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT (NRD) WAS CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY OF ORGANIZING TRAINING COURSES FOR WORKERS.

2. CELU PROMPTLY ISSUED STATEMENT WELCOMING DECISION AND PROMISING FULL COOPERATION IN CARRYING OUT TRAINING PROGRAM. "CELU WILL SPARE NO EFFORT IN ORGANIZING THE LABOR FORCE IN THE COUNTRY TO SERVE AS ONE OF THE VANGUARDS OF ETHIOPIAN SOCIALISM." APPARENTLY CELU HAS GIVEN LITTLE OR NO THOUGHT AS YET TO EFFECT NATIONALIZATIONS MAY HAVE ON MEMBERSHIP. LONG-STANDING RULE IS THAT WORKERS IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED PLANTS (E.G. TOBACCO MONOPOLY) MAY NOT JOIN CELU.

3. CONCURRENTLY WITH CELU STATEMENT, MINISTER OF NRD MEBRATE MENGISTE MADE REMARKS TO MEDIA DURING WHICH HE DESCRIBED A WORKS COUNCIL AS COMMITTEE OF WORKERS AND MANAGERS WHICH WILL HAVE MAJOR SAY IN OPERATION AND PLANNING OF EACH BUSINESS UNIT OR FACTORY. COMMITTEE WILL HAVE MANTLE OF AUTHORITY ON BEHALF OF ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE AND MUST PROVE WORTHY. SPECIAL ATTENTION NEEDED TO TRAINING WORKERS SO THAT THEY WILL ELECT TO COMMITTEES ABLE AND COMPETENT REPRESENTATIVES. MINISTER NOTED THAT CELU SHOULD NO LONGER BE CONCERNED WITH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN LABOR AND MANAGEMENT, AS THAT WOULD BE WASTE OF TIME. "SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IS A THING OF THE PAST." IN FUTURE, HE SAID, IT WOULD BE INCUMBENT ON CELU TO REORGANIZE ITSELF IN ACCORDANCE WITH ETHIOPAIN SOCIALISM AND REINFORCE ITS EFFORTS TO EDUCATE WORKERS IN RUNNING FACTORIES ALONG SOCIALIST LINES.

4. MINISTER'S REMARKS REFLECT OPINION SAID TO BE HELD BY NUMBER OF "DIRG" MEMBERS THAT, SINCE SOCIALISM PLACES ALL POLITICAL POWER IN HANDS OF THE MASSES AND WORKERS' RIGHTS ARE NOT PUT TO QUESTION, THERE SHOULD BE NO NEED FOR LABOR UNIONS. SUCH VIEWS STAND IN SHARP CONTRAST TO ETHIOPIAN LABOR ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO TRIPARTITISM AND TO VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MAJOR MENGISTU TO SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS (REF C) UPHOLDING PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND RIGHT TO BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ADDIS 01502 071338Z

5. PMAC DECISION TO ESTABLISH WORKS COUNCILS CAME AS SURPRISE TO MANY AS MATTER HAD NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED. CHIEF LABOR COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE TAKES EFFORT TO ESTABLISH WORKERS PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT AS NEW ELEMENT IN INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION BUT DOUBTS IT WILL OR CAN ELIMINATE DISPUTES OR ALTER ESTABLISHED PATTERN OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS. CHIEF LABOR COMMISSIONER TAFERA REMARKED THAT HUMAN NATURE BEING AS IT IS,

WORKERS WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE DEMANDS AND GRIEVANCES,
INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, WHICH WILL REQUIRE REPRESENTATION
IN FORM OF UNIONS AND CONCILIATION AND MEDIATION IN FORM OF
GOVERNMENT SERVICES. CELU HAS SIMPLY USED OCCASION TO EXPRESS
SUPPORT OF PMAC AND SOCIALISM AND HOPEFULLY ENHANCE ITS
POSITION WITH "DIRG". EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION HAS BEEN PUT IN
SERIOUS QUANDARY BY NATIONALIZATIONS OF MANY OF ITS PROMINENT
MEMBERS AND BY PRESENT DECISION. STUDIOUS SILENCE IS THEIR
ORDER OF THE DAY.

6. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS FOREGOING INFORMATION TO AALC/NEW YORK.
WYMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AALC/NEW YORK.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALIZATION, INDUSTRY, POLICIES, ECONOMIC STABILITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS01502
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750045-0724
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750264/aaaacfnh.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ADDIS 1297, 75 ADDIS 1407, 75 ADDIS 1377
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PMAC CALLS FOR WORKS COUNCILS IN NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES
TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006